recently introduced pension scheme under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme is also meant to take care of the retired workers in their old age. Besides, many State Governments have introduced old age and destitute pension schemes. Social security for the workers in the informal sector is by and large confined to some welfare measures. The scope and coverage of these welfare schemes will expanded from time to time. However, it is not possible, at this stage, with the present stage of economic development to provide comprehensive unemployment insurance and benefits to all sections of the work force.

ILO Concern Over Lack of Employment

580. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the newsitem "ILO concerned over lack of unemployment protection" published in the News Time dated 21st June 2000;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to address the problem and difficulties highlighted in the above mentioned newsitem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) ILO's World Labour Report 2000 says that but for those who work in the rural or urban informal sectors in developing countries including 750—900 million under-employed workers, there is hardly any unemployment protection at all. In South Asia, employer liability schemes disburse severance or retrenchment payment on termination of employment but "only a small minority of the working population, *i.e.*, from the larger companies in the formal sector, are effectively covered". In India, employment provided under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojna Programme had reached 1 billion work days by 1995 covering 123 of the country's 350 under-developed districts. The Report notes that major Asian countries like India have social and health insurance schemes covering millions of workers and

their families. The Report says that vast majority of the population in many developing countries, including informal sector wage earners and self-employed persons have no social protection whatsoever and suggest that the major focus must be on the extension of the coverage to these workers.

At present, there are two major social security schemes in India, namely, the Employees Provident Fund Scheme and the Employees State Insurance scheme. However, the benefits of these two schemes are by and large confined to the workers of the organised sector. The recently introduced pension scheme under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme is also meant to take care of the retired workers in their old age. Besides, many State Governments have introduced old age and destitute pension schemes. Social security for the workers in the informal sector is by and large confined to some welfare measures. The scope and coverage of these welfare schemes will be expanded from time to time. However, it is not possible, at this stage, with the present stage of economic development, to provide comprehensive unemployment insurance and benefits to all sections of the work force.

Employees Provident Fund Scheme

581. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees in statutorily vested with the power to administer the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952;

(b) whether the Trust unanimously decided the rate of interest payable to the subscribers of the Fund at 12 percent on the monthly balance for the year 2000-2001;

(c) if so, whether the same has been rejected by Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether CBT was consulted before reducing the interest from 12 percent to 11 percent; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?